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ABSTRACT

Public Servants - Forest Department - Allegations of Corruption against Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu, S/o Late Krishtanna, Aged 56 years, Forest Range Officer, Adoni, Kurnool District - Trapped on 13.05.2019 - Sanction of Prosecution under Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 - Accorded - Orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.17 **Date:17.03.2023.**

ORDER:

1. Whereas, Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu, S/o Late Kristanna, Aged 56 years, worked as Forest Range Officer, Adoni, Kurnool District from 15.06.2018 to 13.05.2019. By virtue of the post held by him he falls under a category of public servant as defined U/s 2 (c) of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 (Central Act 16 of 2018).

2. And whereas Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy r/o Markapuram Town, Prakasam District, with an intention to establish charcoal kiln filed an application in the Divisional Forest Office, Kurnool in December, 2018 for obtaining license to conduct business of charcoal kiln in Pattikonda, Kurnool District. As he was not issued license, he met Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu in the month of January, 2019 and when asked about the license, Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu stated that the license will be issued and he will get it issued by the Divisional Forest Officer and demanded bribe of Rs.30,000/-. In this regard Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy met Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu four to five times and when asked about the said license, Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu stated that it is not known whether he gets license or not and stated that by giving bribe amount of Rs.30,000/- he can commence the business by keeping the charcoal kiln. In trust of words of Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu, Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy started the charcoal business in Pattikonda. While he started the charcoal business with assurance of Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu that license will be issued, the forest department squad officials caught hold of two loads of lorry in his charcoal kiln and fine amount of Rs.3,75,000/- is paid. Thereafter Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy met Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu and

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asked about injustice done to him. Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu again demanded bribe amount of Rs.30,000/- and stated that by showing the fine receipts he can sell his stock. When Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy met Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu on 06.05.2019 at Bellary Chowrashta, Kurnool and requested for license, Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu demanded bribe amount of Rs.30,000/-. When Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy requested that he cannot pay that much amount, Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu reduced it to Rs.16,000/- and further stated that by giving bribe amount of Rs.16,000/- he can sell the charcoal bags. As Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy is not willing to pay bribe, he lodged complaint on 10.05.2019 to the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kurnool.

3. And whereas the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kurnool, after due verification, registered a case in Cr.No.6/RCT-KUR/2019 u/s 7 of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 against Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu on 13.05.2019 and proposed to lay a trap against Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu.

4. And whereas Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu was trapped on 13.05.2019 at his office when he demanded and accepted bribe amount of Rs.16,000/- from Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy. Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy after leaving the trap party went into the office room of Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu at 3.00 pm, approached Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu at his seat and Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu, having confirmed with Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy that he brought the demanded bribe amount and asked him to pay the same. When Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy handed over the bribe amount of Rs.16,000/- to Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu, he received the same with his right hand, counted with both hands and kept the same in the left side pocket of his shirt. When Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy asked Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu about permission for selling the charcoal, Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu assured that he will instruct his staff to allow him for selling the charcoal without causing any objection. Both the hand fingers of Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu when tested in sodium carbonate solution turned into pink colour and the amount of Rs.16,000/- was recovered at the instance of the Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu from his left side shirt pocket. The inner lining of the left side shirt pocket was also tested in sodium carbonate solution and the solution turned into pink colour. All the resultant solutions, shirt, tainted amount of Rs 16,000/- and sample sodium carbonate were seized by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kurnool in the presence of mediators. When questioned by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kurnool, about contents of pant pocket, Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu produced Rs. 32,100/- from his right side pant pocket and did not properly account for the said amount as such the same was seized by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kurnool, for further investigation. When questioned

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about the official favour documents pertaining to Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy, on the instructions of Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu, Sri M. Ranganna, Sr. Assistant, produced the file relating to sanction of license for setting of charcoal kiln before the Deputy Superintendent of Police from the office iron safe and the Deputy Superintendent of Police seized the same for the purpose of investigation. During the course of proceedings, Sri D. Chandrasekhar, Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial relating to Kurnool) produced file relating to the sanction of license for charcoal unit of Sri K. Nagarjuna Reddy and memo issued to Forest Range Officer, Adoni for want of land status and NOC from concerned Tahisldar and copy of Gazette Notification of Government of India communicated by Head of Forest Department. The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kurnool seized above documents and arrested Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu on 13.05.2019 at 22.30 hours and produced him before the Court of Hon'ble Special Judge for Trial of ACB/SPE Cases, Kurnool on 14-05-2019. During the course of investigation relevant witnesses were examined and relevant documents were collected which substantiate the allegation against Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu.

5. And whereas, the said acts of Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu, S/o Late Kristanna, Aged 56 years, Forest Range Officer, Adoni, Kurnool District constitute the offences punishable u/s 7 (a) of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 (Act 16 of 2018).

6. And whereas the Government of Andhra Pradesh being the competent authority to remove Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu, S/o Late Kristanna, Forest Range Officer, Adoni, Kurnool District from his office, after fully and carefully examining the material placed before them i.e., copy of FIR, Mediator Report- I & II and Final Investigation Report which contain the statements of witnesses and contents of seized documents in respect of the said allegations and having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case consider that Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu, Forest Range Officer, Adoni, Kurnool District should be prosecuted in the court of Law.

7. Now therefore in exercise of the powers conferred under Clause (b) of Sub section (1) of Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 (Central Act 16 of 2018) the Government of Andhra Pradesh hereby accord sanction for the prosecution of the said Sri Sugali Venkata Subbadu, Forest Range Officer, Adoni, Kurnool District for the aforesaid offence punishable u/s 7 (a) of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 (Act 16 of 2018) for accepting and obtaining undue advantage with an intention to perform public duty and obtained undue advantage for himself by abusing his official position as

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public servant by corrupt and illegal means and for any other cognate offences punishable under any other provisions of law for the time being in force in respect of the aforesaid acts and for taking cognizance of the offence by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Director General, Anti Corruption Bureau, A.P., Vijayawada.